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Today is World Stroke Day

1 in 6

WORLD STROKE DAY
OCTOBER 29, 2012

PEOPLE WORLDWIDE WILL HAVE A STROKE IN THEIR LIFETIME.

Every October 29th, the World Health Organization (WHO) observes World Stroke Day. This year again, WHO is focusing on the prevention of strokes by making the entire world aware that one in every six persons will suffer a stroke during their life time.

Continued on page 2

!NOW OPEN!

KFC @ Palm Beach

Cas di Glas turns over a BIG check to fight breast cancer



Two years ago, island media celebrities joined together in a four day effort to raise funds for an independent mammogram center for Aruba, and breast cancer awareness. They literally lived in a house of glass, "Cas di Glas" in the parking lot of the Renaissance Marketplace the entire time, interviewing women who had battled breast cancer and accepting donations.

The event was instigated by the Mary Joan Breast Cancer Support Foundation and Cool FM radio station, its owner, Alex Ponson, was one of the personalities actively involved. On Friday, October 26, the donations collected were finally turned over as the foundation which will acquire and operate the center, Stichting Bevolking-

sonderzoek Borstkanker Aruba or BOB, was getting legally organized.

BOB plans to screen women between the ages of 45 and 75 every two years, with the purpose of catching breast cancer before it is detected by a lump. "Women do not realize that though breast cancer is the most common form of cancer in women, it is one of the easiest to cure with early detection," commented Mary Joan founder and President Enrita Werleman. "Unfortunately, when women do feel a lump, it could be too late. We want to get all Aruban women into our system. We will then send them regular reminders every two years to have a mammogram, to insure early detection and treatment."

Organizers of the 2010 fundraising event and personnel of BOB met at Taste of Belgium, to turn over and receive a

check of 132,409 Aruban florins collected towards buying the apparatus. Present for the exchange was Edwina de Cuba, Fayona Flanegin, Vanessa Williams, Rose Ann Anthony, Peter Balliere, Esmeralda Schotman, and Enrita Werleman.

The BOB foundation personnel expressed their heartfelt gratitude to all those involved. A second phase of Cas Di Glas fundraising will be coming up soon, as additional funds are needed for a facility and technicians. Interested parties are welcome on Tuesday, October 30th, to learn more about BOB Aruba. The informative evening starts at 7.30 pm in the auditorium of Fantastic Gardens. To contact the foundation, e-mail them at stbobaruba@gmail.com.

Rosalie Klein

Obama warns Americans to take Sandy 'very seriously'

President Barack Obama called on Americans yesterday to take Hurricane Sandy "very seriously," urging them to heed the instructions of local and state authorities.

"This is a serious and big storm. And my first message is to all people across the eastern seaboard, mid-Atlantic going north, you need to take this very seriously," he said.

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Today is World Stroke Day

Continued from page 1

WHO's message this year is: "Take your risk seriously, one in every six of us will have a stroke and that one could be you. Learn the risk factors and take action to save your life or that of a loved one."

What is a Stroke?

Globally every year 15 million people suffer a stroke and this ailment takes the lives of one person every six seconds. This makes this silent ailment one of the most devastating around the world. The majority of those who have suffered a stroke will lose the partial use, either temporally or permanently of their speech, sight, ability to swallow or mobility. Along with the physical limitations, a stroke can also cause anguish, depression, isolation and other emotional limitations. The majority of those who have suffered a stroke cannot or have grave difficulty returning to their social life, school or work. The care of such a person is continuous and costly.

The medical term for a stroke is a Cerebral Vascular Accident (CVA), this occurs when there is a problem with the flow of blood to the brains. This could be because of a blockage in an artery or could be the result of a hemorrhage (bleeding) in the brains.

Strokes in Aruba

Although exact figures are not known, there is an indication that the number of persons suffering a stroke in Aruba has increased. There is also the tendency to see younger people suffering strokes. A stroke has no respect of persons nor age, sex or race; it can affect one in every six persons.

How to recognize if someone has had a stroke?

You need not be an expert to learn to recognize the symptoms of a stroke, as the symptoms are relatively very easy to recognize. FAST is the easiest and surest method to recognize the symptoms.

Face: look to see if the person's face has fallen to one side

Arms: ask the person to raise both arms and observe if they can raise both just as fast and to the same height

Smile: ask the person to smile and see if one side of the mouth has fallen

Time: if you have identified these symptoms, it is time to act and call for medical help immediately

What to do if you suspect a person has suffered a stroke?

Call 911 for urgent medical assistance. Depending on the type or level of stroke the per-

son has suffered, if they get medical assistance within three hours of the stroke, the person can be given medication that would increase their chances for recovery from the stroke.

Can I prevent getting a stroke?

Everyone can prevent suffering a cerebral attack. To reduce your chances of suffering a stroke, you must maintain your blood pressure at normal levels, that is, below 140 over 90. You must reduce cholesterol, and you must maintain a healthy body weight (BMI below 25). Do not smoke, don't use salt in your food, reduce the use of alcohol, eat healthy and exercise daily.

What is the role of the CVA Foundation?

The Fundacion CVA Aruba organizes lectures, educational sessions, screening events and seminars on topics of stroke prevention. The stroke ailment has no cure, thus prevention is the only way to avoid being confronted with the devastating consequences of this ailment. Fundacion CVA also focuses on providing guidance to those who are caring for someone who suffered a stroke.

Your health is your responsibility

The prevention of a stroke is the responsibility of every one of us. The care of our health is largely in our own hands. We ought to know the medical history of our family (particularly with respect to problems with diabetes and cardio-vascular ailments), our risk factors, our cholesterol and blood pressure. If you smoke, stop smoking. Do daily exercises and eat healthy. And, if you are overweight, begin to take action immediately to reduce your weight. Take care of your body...you only have one!

Children Psychiatric Clinic is closed this morning

Moving to a different location

ORANJESTAD – The Horacio Oduber Hospital announces to the general public and its clients in particular that the Children Psychiatric Clinic is closed this morning, because it is moving in the ex- Internal Medicine offices. The clinic will open again at 1:00 p.m.

The offices are situated in the same building but at the left side. Clients can use the parking lot as usual and there will be signs at the entrance of the building showing the way to the offices.

The Horacio Oduber Hospital is making these changes in order to give clients the best service possible. We appreciate your patience during the move.



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Book Festival Full of Surprises!

ORANJESTAD -- One of the authors to participate in the National Library's children's book festival is Olga Buckley. The festival opens on November 2nd with the school visits taking place during the week of November 5th to the 9th. Every year this festival has a different theme and a group of authors, illustrators and storytellers of children's books from Aruba, the Antilles and Holland. They intend to visit more or less 65 to 68 schools around the island. The 2012 theme is multiculturalism and the motto is "While the world turns I continue to read." This is the 20th book festival organized by the National Library to stimulate children to read and lead conversations of interest.

Olga Buckley is a teacher who has spent her entire career in special education. She saw an open window to teach children something in their own language. During the time when Dutch was still the language of instruction in special education, she began giving secret classes in Papiamentu at School Kibrahacha. Buckley has attended most of the workshops and courses in the field of Papiamentu and has completed the 3rd grade of the Papiamentu



language.

As a retired teacher she still teaches 3 days a week in special education and dedicates the other 2 days of the week promoting reading. Reading and literature is Olga's two biggest passions. Her passion let her to establish the Bon Nochi, Drumi Dushi reading promotion project in 2007.

She has since taken this reading promotion project to Curacao, Suriname, Sint Maarten and Sint Eustatius.

In 2011, Olga received the Prins Bernard Cultuur Fonds Prize for the promotion of her reading project. She accepted the prize in name of the board the Bon Nochi, Drumi Dushi Foundation, because, says Olga, without them the project

could not have been possible.

Olga writes poems and books for children. In 2002 she published her first series of poems for adults, called 'Curashi.' Her second series called 'Sin Wak Patras' was published in 2008 with 35 poems and various thoughts. She has since taken this reading promotion project to Curacao, Suriname, Sint Maarten and Sint Eustatius.

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Continued on page 4

The Netherlands' Liberal, Labour parties agree to form coalition

THE HAGUE (AFP) - The two pro-European parties that dominated last month's Dutch election said yesterday that they have agreed to form a coalition.

"The head of Liberal VVD Mark Rutte and the head of the Labour PvdA Diederik Samsom have ... finalised discussions for a Liberal-Labour coalition," according to a statement issued by negotiators.

The deal, whose contents were not officially divulged, would be put this morning to the two parties' parliamentary groups.

Liberal Prime Minister Rutte is expected to stay on in the job, while the foreign minister's job currently held by Liberal Uri Rosenthal is expected to go to Labour, Dutch political commentators have said.

During the September 12 elections, the Liberals obtained 41 seats while Labour took 38 out of a possible 150 up for grabs.

Het Financieele Dagblad had reported that the new gov-

ernment's budget would make savings of 15 billion euros thanks to reforms in health insurance, real estate and a reduction in development aid.

Popular daily De Telgraaf quoted a savings figure of 16 billion euros and said that the job of deputy prime minister would not go to Samsom but to another member of the Labour party.

The two parties said earlier this month that minor changes to the 2013 budget would not affect the government's plans to see the deficit drop to 2.7 percent of gross domestic product for next year, from 4.7 percent in 2011.

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Book Festival Full of Surprises!

Continued from page 3



Olga writes poems and books for children. In 2002 she published her first series of poems for adults, called 'Curashi.' Her second series called 'Sin Wak Patras' was published in 2008 with 35 poems and various thoughts.

In 2006 she published her

first children's book, 'Bencho Ta Dual,' which was her first book in the Bencho series. The second book in the series, 'Bencho Ta Gana Un Bais,' was published in 2008. Olga is currently working on her third book in the Bencho series to be published in 2013 along with

her third book of poems.

The Children's book festival this year expects different authors, illustrators and storytellers from Aruba, Curacao, Bonaire, Sint Maarten, Holland, Jamaica and Suriname. Our children can expect presentations from: Holland by Mylo Freeman, Tjibbe Veldkamp, Eveline van Dort and Sjoerd Kuyper. From Curacao by: Tio Ali (Alvin Inecia), Roland Colastica. Bonaire: by Tio Gabi (Gabriel Mercera), Kathleen Thielman. Sint Maarten: by Loeki Morales. Suriname: by Hilli Arduin, Jamaica: Anima Blackwood Meeks, Aruba: Robert Reeberg, Olga Buckley, Desiree Correa, Mariebelle Arends, Dolfi Kock, Dora Lauffer-Mathilda, Norris van Lis-Donata, Olga Orman.

Bucuti & Tara Beach Resorts honored with the prestigious Condé Nast Traveler 2012 Readers' Choice Award

Aruba's premier resort for romance ranks within the top ten of the "Top Resorts in the Caribbean"



Bucuti & Tara Beach Resorts has been ranked in the top ten of the "Top Resorts in the Caribbean" in the prestigious Condé Nast Traveler 2012 Readers' Choice Awards. Regarded as one of the most trusted sources of travel advice globally, the Readers' Choice Awards polls Condé Nast Traveler readers to determine the top resorts in the world and stands as the apex of excellence in travel. In this, the 25th annual survey, a record 46,476 readers participated expressing their combined opinions of the hotels, cities, and islands they visited in the past year.

"Since opening our doors 25 years ago we have set out to create a memorable experience for our guests and being a recipient of the Condé Nast Traveler Readers' Choice Award validates that we are doing just that," said owner of Bucuti & Tara Beach Resorts Ewald Biemans. "We are honored that readers have taken the time to vote for us and will

strive to continue to meet and exceed their expectations."

As Aruba's only boutique-style resort that caters exclusively to adults, Bucuti has long been recognized by travelers worldwide, achieving a number of awards and accolades including: Top Ten Most Romantic Resorts in the World, top ten placement in the Top 25 Beaches in the World for Eagle Beach, and most recently the TripAdvisor Certificate of Excellence. The resort has also received more than two dozen environmental awards and certifications, including the Highest Achievement Award as the top performing sustainable travel & tourism business in the Caribbean by Green Globe Certification.

In addition Bucuti is also a Condé Nast Editor's Pick and a recipient of the Five Star Diamond Award from the American Academy of Hospitality Sciences (AAHS).

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A "Not so Scary" Halloween come early to Paseo Herencia



First place winner recycled costume



Second place winner recycled costume



Halloween is alive and well in Aruba, as proven by hundreds of youngsters and the young at heart who came dressed to the hilt for an early observance of the holiday at Paseo Herencia Shopping Mall. All the stores participated with trick or treat sweets, and the mall had environmentally aware goody bags as a gift for the first 400 children to sign in. Not a single bag was left, and the kids cleaned up with from all the vendors available.

Entertainment was provided by Kids in Action dance troupe and Ritmo Cubano. This year, prizes were offered to further the environmental concerned theme. Kids and parents were encouraged to make recycled costumes and live Dina, who was picture perfect as a walking gift box, took the prize. Divina wore an adorable dress designed to showcase the colors of Aruba's flag, made from magazine pages. It won her second place.

The center was filled with ghouls, goblins, ghosts and witches of all age and description for a perfectly horrifying pre-Halloween bash!

Rosalie Klein





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EU pledges aid after Hurricane Sandy damage

BRUSSELS (AFP) - The European Union said yesterday it was ready to support recovery efforts for Caribbean residents affected by Hurricane Sandy, after the storm killed 59 people.

"We have been profoundly touched by the news of death and devastation caused by the passage of Hurricane Sandy through the northern part of the Caribbean," said a joint statement by EU foreign policy

chief Catherine Ashton and EU commissioner for humanitarian aid Kristalina Georgieva.

"The European Union stands ready to provide support in the recovery efforts," the statement added, referring to affected countries Cuba, Jamaica, the Dominican Republic and the Bahamas.

Pope Benedict XVI also offered his solidarity to the region during his traditional Sunday Angelus prayer.



Waves pound Carolina Beach pier in Carolina Beach, N.C.

Mass US evacuations ahead of Hurricane Sandy, Millions at risk of flooding

WASHINGTON (AFP) - Millions of people are at risk of life-threatening flooding when Hurricane Sandy plows into the northeastern US, the director of the National Hurricane Center said yesterday.

"The system is so large that I would say millions of people are at least in areas that have some chance of experiencing either flash flooding or river flooding," Rick Knabb said.

He also said the storm could produce peak surges at high tide of six to 11 feet in the Long Island Sound, NY Harbor, Raritan Bay, a swath of the most heavily populated portions of the US coastline.

"Don't focus on the fact that this is a category one hurricane," he said, referring to the Sandy's current low rating on the five-rung Saffir-Simpson scale.

"The storm surge threat for a large area is a life-threatening

hazard," he emphasized.

NHC forecaster Todd Kimberlain said the storm has the potential to break a number of different records.

"I think it's fair to say it would be up there. If it's not historic it would be near historic," he told AFP.

"The storm surge in Irene was four or five feet (1.2 to 1.5 meters)," Kimberlain said, referring to a 2011 hurricane that killed 47 people and caused an estimated \$10 billion of damages in the US, well below projections for Sandy.

He added, "The surge is historically the most life-threatening, but we don't want to minimize the effect that the winds could have. We think there is a strong likelihood of hurricane force winds over a large portion of the mid-Atlantic and southern New England coast."

"This is going to be a more

expansive region, and for that reason, I think the potential is there to be more damaging."

Kimberlain said Sandy's impact could reach well into the billions of dollars.

New York authorities issued an evacuation order for hundreds of thousands of people in low-lying coastal towns on Sandy's projected route. About 1,100 national guard troops were deployed in the towns and villages.

New York mayor Michael Bloomberg issued a mandatory evacuation order for 375,000 people in the city alone, including the threatened coastal zones of Coney Island and Staten Island.

The city opened 72 shelters in schools and other buildings. It ordered subway, buses and commuter trains to close down from Sunday night. "This is a serious and dangerous storm," Bloomberg said.

At the city's Rockaway Beach, inhabitants started putting up sand bags on Saturday and many said they would brave out the storm as they did with Hurricane Irene last year.

Delaware and New Jersey also issued evacuation orders. Authorities yesterday ordered gambling to halt in Atlantic City. Airlines have cancelled hundreds of flights into airports along the US east coast.

Governors declared states of emergency in Connecticut, Maryland, Massachusetts, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Virginia, the US capital Washington and parts of North Carolina.

Nine days out from election day, the hurricane also threw the US presidential contest into disarray as Barack Obama and Republican challenger Mitt Romney cancelled events and prepared for the unexpected fallout.

Sandy forces UN to cancel meetings

UNITED NATIONS (AFP) - The United Nations canceled meetings which Latin American presidents were to attend today as Hurricane Sandy bore down on New York.

Guatemala's President Otto Perez had been due to chair a UN Security Council meeting on women in conflict, which ministers including France's Women's Affairs Minister Nadjat Vallaud-Belkacem was to attend.

Bolivia's President Evo Morales was to have been at the UN headquarters today to launch a campaign to promote quinoa, the high nutrient plant, as a way of helping to solve the global food crisis. Ministers from other South American nations were in New York for the meeting.

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Hawaii rattled by tsunami warning after Canada quake

HONOLULU (AFP) - A powerful 7.7 magnitude earthquake off Canada's west coast set off a tsunami warning that emptied restaurants, bars and theaters in Hawaii and sent rattled residents fleeing beach areas.

But only relatively small waves rolled to shore on the island of Oahu, and the US Tsunami Warning Center later issued an advisory saying the worst was over.

No damage was reported either in Hawaii or in the Charlotte Islands north of Vancouver where the earthquake struck at 0304 GMT Sunday 86 miles (139 kilometers) south of Masset, the archipelago's largest town.

"Based on all available data the tsunami threat has decreased and is now at the advisory level and not expected to increase," the Hawaii-based Pacific Tsunami Warning Center announced.

The center warned, how-

ever, that sea level changes and strong currents could still occur and present a hazard for swimmers and boaters.

"The threat may continue for several hours," the center cautioned.

In Canada, the government's emergency services agency said, "No areas of coastal British Columbia remain at risk from this event."

But in the immediate aftermath of the quake, which was followed by strong aftershocks, residents of Hawaii were suddenly spurred into action by a warning that a tsunami generated by the quake was headed their way.

The Pacific Tsunami Warning Center, which initially said there was no "destructive widespread tsunami threat," later revised the advisory to say a tsunami was headed for Hawaii.

Sirens blared across Hawaii and local officials took to the

airwaves, urging residents to head for higher ground -- or higher floors if they were in multi-story buildings.

Countless Halloween parties were interrupted, restaurants, bars and movie theaters emptied, and highways quickly filled with cars heading away from beach areas.

Tourists from Waikiki to Turtle Bay in Honolulu were evacuated to higher floors in their hotels, and major tourist centers looked abandoned for several hours.

Governor Neil Abercrombie declared a state of emergency when the first alert was sounded and kept it in force.

Natural Resources Canada said in a statement that the quake was felt across much of north-central British Columbia, including Haida Gwaii as the Queen Charlotte Islands are also called, Prince Rupert, Quesnel, and Houston.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Snow and gales hit Europe, four dead, two missing

PARIS (AFP) - Snow and gales hit France and Switzerland over the weekend, possibly leading to the death of a homeless man in Paris, while searches continued for a missing windsurfer and a 12-year-old British boy who vanished Saturday in the south of France while cycling in a gale.

His bicycle is reported to have been found but there are fears he was swept away by strong winds.

Freezing temperatures killed three men in their fifties in Poland. Quoted by the Polish press agency PAP police said that two of them had been under the influence of alcohol, and the third man was said to be homeless.

The homeless man, a 59-year-old former foreign legionnaire well-known in the neighbourhood and said to be in poor health, was found dead in northern Paris where temperatures dipped to near zero Celsius (37 Fahrenheit) instead of the usual seasonal 7 Celsius

(45F). He was thought to have died from the cold.

Hurricane-force winds lashed southern France, damaging a ferry off Marseille which slipped its anchor and hit a quay. The hull was holed and two watertight compartments flooded. The ship has a 15 degree list while waiting to be righted.

Almost 30,000 households in the south of France were without power.

In Switzerland trees were toppled by high winds, rail services were interrupted and the emergency services received hundreds of calls as winter made an early appearance.

Almost 10 centimeters (four inches) of snow fell in some parts late Saturday night. Many drivers failed to anticipate the onset of winter and fit appropriate tyres and there were scores of accidents in the canton of Bern alone in a 24-hour period, though no serious casualties were reported.

Ohio papers: Obama, Romney tied in key battleground

VANDALIA (AFP) - After trailing President Barack Obama for months in the most crucial battleground of the US election, Republican Mitt Romney has drawn even with his rival in Ohio, newspapers in the state said yesterday.

"49-49: Dead Heat," the Cleveland Plain Dealer front page headline blared, citing the latest poll from the Ohio News Organization Poll.

Several other newspapers, including the Columbus Dispatch and the Cincinnati Enquirer, highlighted the same data on their front pages yesterday, when Romney arrives in the state for a full day of campaigning. He returns to the state today as well.

The group's September 13-18 survey showed Obama ahead 51-46, but as in several other hot spots, the polls have tightened ahead of the November 6 election.

The closely watched poll average compiled by website RealClearPolitics had Obama ahead 2.3 percentage points on Saturday, but by Sunday his advantage had slipped to 1.9 points.

However, the latest Ohio news poll, of 1,015 likely voters, is not the absolute latest snapshot; it was conducted October 18-23, whereas the final

presidential debate occurred October 22, meaning the bulk of the survey was done prior to that showdown.

The poll showed Romney's support grew primarily among men, high school and college graduates, as well as in every age category except age 18-29.

"In the final days before the election, both campaigns will focus on turning out their bases, appealing to independents and attracting the few undecided voters that remain," said Eric Rademacher, of the University of Cincinnati's Institute for Policy Research, which conducted the poll.

"Absent any more twists and turns, a remarkable presidential campaign may end with the campaign that executes the best 'ground game' narrowly delivering Ohio for the next president of the United States."

The state is absolutely crucial for Romney; he faces fewer paths to the 270 electoral votes needed to win the White House, and no Republican has ever clinched the presidency without winning Ohio.

Nearly 20 percent of the poll's respondents indicated they had already voted, further confirmation of the impact of early voting on the 2012 race.

Health & Living

Energy drinks have more caffeine than listed : report



--A report published in the December 2012 issue of Consumer Reports says many popular energy drinks often mislabel the amount of caffeine in them, some don't even label them at all.

Energy drinks have been under scrutiny after the parents of a 14-year-old girl sued Monster Beverage Corp. for their daughter's death. The girl's parents claim the teen drank two Monster Energy Drinks within 24 hours and died from cardiac arrest because of the

caffeine content. The girl also had an underlying heart condition that caused weak blood vessels. The Food and Drug Administration is also investigating five deaths and one non-fatal heart attack that have supposedly involved Monster Energy Drink.

The Monster Beverage Corporation, insists its products are safe, adding that it was unaware, apart from one fatality report, of other filings about deaths and serious injuries linked to its drinks.

Consuming too much caffeine may lead to caffeine intoxication.

It is important to note that the size of the packaging and the serving size is not always the same, and not all serving sizes are identical. This means that a 16-ounce energy drink that has an 8-ounce serving size will actually have twice the amount of caffeine, sugars, calories and other components than is listed on the nutrition label.

drinking 1 gram of caffeine can cause negative effects including irritability, hyper aroused states, abnormal heart beat and cardiac arrest.

Taking in 10 grams can lead to death. Doctors usually suggest that people limit their daily caffeine consumption to 400 milligrams to 500 milligrams daily, and the American Academy of Pediatrics recommends youths should not consume energy drinks.

New Zealand mother gives baby drugs through breast milk

WELLINGTON (AFP)- A New Zealand woman has admitted giving her three-month-old baby cannabis -- through her breast milk, it was reported Saturday.

The 29-year-old, from the North Island town of Wanganui, was sentenced to six months' supervision after pleading guilty to administering the drug to her baby, the Wanganui Chronicle said.

Police, who arrested the woman following a search of her house for drugs, said her actions amounted to child abuse.

However University of Auckland law professor Warren Brookbanks said it was unlikely the case would have succeeded had the woman denied the charge.

"It would be necessary for the prosecution to prove that the mother both knew she had cannabis in her system and that she intended to administer it to the baby," Brookbanks said.

"In the absence of both of those mental elements, it would be impossible to prove a relevant administration of the drug."

Halloween Warning: Decorative Contact Lenses May Damage Your Eyes

-- Wearing nonprescription decorative contact lenses that make your eyes look like those of creatures such as vampires or werewolves is a bad idea and could damage your eyes, an expert warns.

Many people use over-the-counter decorative contact lenses at Halloween or at other times of the year, even though they are illegal and may cause serious eye infections and possibly permanent vision loss.

"There is no such thing as a 'one-size-fits-all' contact lens," Dr. Randall Fuerst, chairman of the American Optometric Association's contact lens and cornea section, said in an association news release. "Consumers who purchase lenses illegally, without a prescription or without consultation from an eye doctor, put themselves at risk for serious bacterial infections, allergic reactions or even significant damage to the eye's ability to function, with the potential for irreversible sight loss."



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US Meningitis Outbreak Hits 18th State

--The deadly fungal meningitis outbreak linked to the New England Compounding Center (NECC) reached an 18th state. With South Carolina added to the list of states with cases, all but five of the 23 states that were shipped the tainted methylprednisolone acetate steroid -- California, Nevada, West Virginia, Rhode Island, and Connecticut -- have reported cases. No vials sent to Nevada were used before the drug was recalled.

The Palmetto State case is still considered probable at this point, since additional laboratory testing is pending to rule out other potential causes of meningitis.

In addition to the new case in South Carolina, Michigan

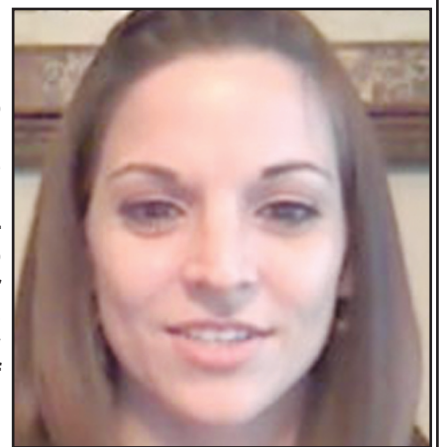
reported an additional seven cases, upping its total to 80. Indiana reported two new cases and Minnesota reported one new one, bringing those states' total cases to 43 and 8 respectively.

NECC, the subject of Massachusetts and federal probes, recalled all of its more than 2,100 products on Oct. 6. Nearly 14,000 patients were exposed to the potentially contaminated steroid injection from three lots shipped to pain clinics starting May 21; most patients received the injections to treat back pain. The CDC and state health departments said they have contacted roughly 97% of patients for follow-up.

Texas mom breaks world record for donating breast milk

--According to television station WFAA, Alicia Richman has donated 86 gallons of breast milk to a nonprofit group that provides donor milk for North Texas babies.

That's enough to fill 1,389 baby bottles. The mom from Granbury had two freezers of frozen breast milk that she had accumulated in 2011 and 2012 because she had too much milk to feed her child. Richman has been recognized by the Guinness Book of World Records, WFAA said.



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Test allows doctors to see disease without microscope

PARIS (AFP) - Scientists in Britain say they have developed a super-sensitive test using nano-particles to spot markers for cancer or the AIDS virus in human blood serum using the naked eye.

As it does not need sophisticated equipment, the test-tube technique should be cheap and simple, making it a boon for disease detection in poor countries, the team wrote in *Nature Nanotechnology* on Sunday.

Researchers from Imperial College London used the technology to scan for molecules of p24, a marker for HIV infection, and Prostate Specific Antigen or PSA, an early indicator of prostate cancer.

Their method is used to analyse serum, a light-yellow fluid that is extracted from blood by a centrifuge and is commonly used in health tests.

The team said their visual sensor technology was 10 times more sensitive than existing standard methods for measuring p24 and PSA biomarkers -- molecules that can indicate the presence of disease.

It was able to detect minute levels of p24 in patients with low viral loads that went undetected using some existing tests.

The new method was also 10 times cheaper.

Study co-author Roberto de la Rica said the test would allow people to be diagnosed at an earlier state of disease, and thus treated sooner.

As yet, the technique cannot pinpoint how big the concentration of HIV or cancer markers is.

"It is an 'on-off' test," they cautioned. "It does not say specifically how many biomarkers are in blood, but only if they are present."

Haiti's toll from Sandy at 51, Cuba eyes cleanup

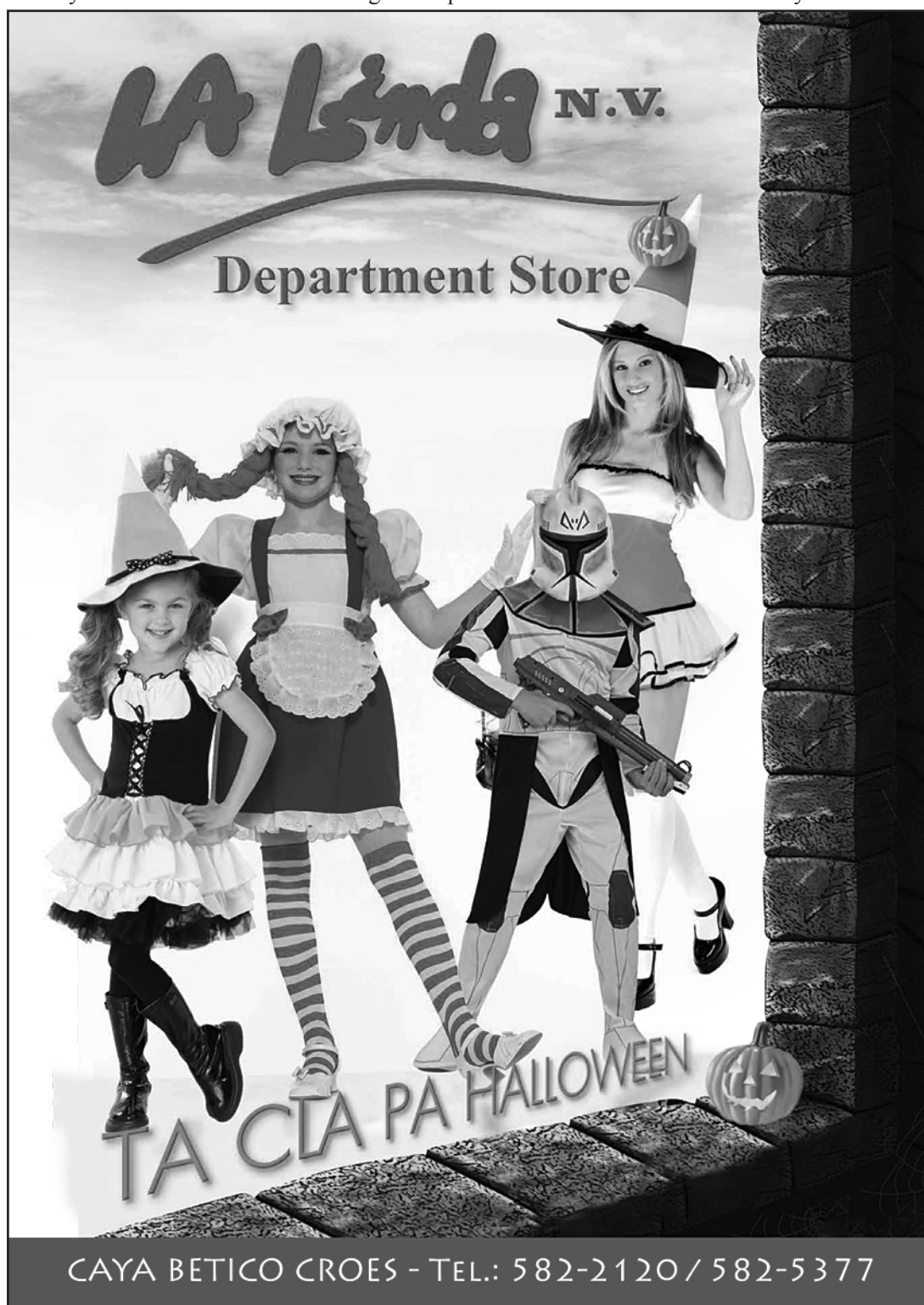
PORT-AU-PRINCE (AFP) - Hurricane Sandy's tear across the Caribbean left 51 people dead in Haiti, while another 15 people were still missing after the deadly storm, officials said Sunday.

The earlier toll had reached 44 dead in the Americas' poorest nation, which was socked with heavy rains, driving winds and flooding in areas where thousands are in refugee camps.

Sandy killed 11 people in Cuba -- nine in Santiago de Cuba and two in Guantanamo, authorities said. The last time it was hit by such a deadly storm was Dennis, which killed 16 in July 2005.



-- Image of aftermath of Hurricane Sandy in Santiago de Cuba. In Cuba, among the Caribbean nations harder hit by the storm system, President Raul Castro inspected damage in the central provinces of Villa Clara and Sancti Spiritus, official state media reported Sunday. We have had a major hurricane, a little Flora in the center of the country," Castro was quoted as saying in state media ahead of a visit to even harder hit Santiago de Cuba, Cuba's second largest city. Hurricane Flora was one of the deadliest to hit Cuba in the 20th century, killing about 1,200 people in 1963.



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ACROSS

1. Vinous valley
5. Gaze
10. Expediting initials
14. Bemoaner's word
15. Pertaining to a musical sound
16. Fuller Brush man's quest
17. Sitcom about the Petries et al., with "The"
20. Eroded
21. Figure skater Kulik
22. TV's "___ of Wells Fargo"
23. ___ Khan
24. Asian range
26. Where Ginger lived for years
34. Of a region
35. Workbench attachment
36. "Peter Pan" role
37. Farrow of "Peyton Place"
38. Levels a building
39. Arista
40. Gorbachev's domain, once: abbr.
42. "Play ___ It Lays" (Tony Perkins film)
43. Eucharist implement
45. Pugsley's clan
48. Landing spot for ships
49. Cutely naughty kid
50. Act of civil disobedience
53. TV role for Hugh O'Brian
55. Silent bank "employee": abbr.
58. Show about Major Tony

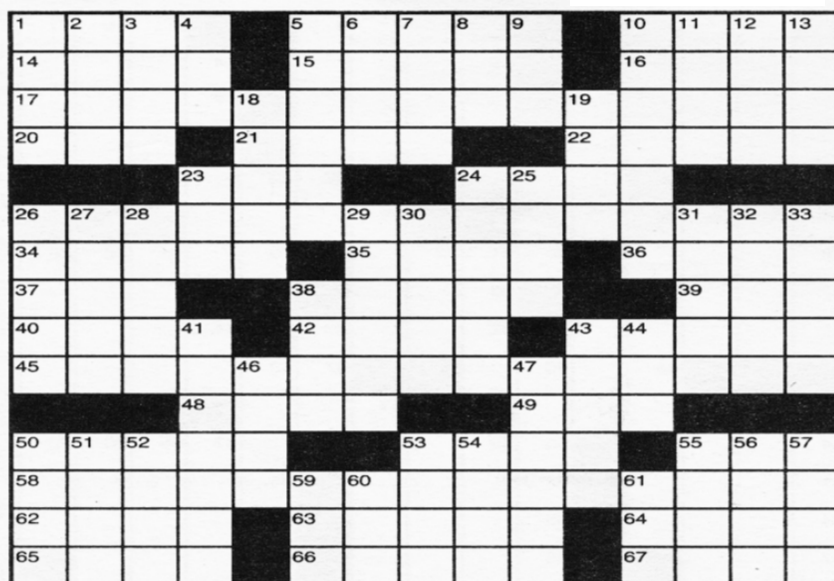
62. Cordelia's dad
63. Buchanan of "Petticoat Junction"
64. "___ Telephone Hour"
65. Bugle call
66. Actor Bert and kin
67. Amazed

DOWN

1. Zilch, in Xochimilco
2. Got off a horse
3. Tempo
4. Query
5. WWII POW camp
6. Singer Tennille
7. "... partridge in a pear tree"
8. Actor Milland
9. Antlered

10. Attacks
11. Humorist Mort
12. Lanolin's partner
13. Sunday sleeping spots, for some
18. Devotional watch
19. Greek vowel sounds
23. ___ française
24. Evaluate
25. "True ___" (1994 film)
26. Entire range
27. ___ sweepstakes
28. Rental document
29. Krishna, vis-à-vis Vishnu
30. Turkish soldier
31. Violinmaker

32. Stairway post
33. Pitcher McLain
38. Go by car
41. Duel tools
43. Plain of Argentina
44. Rock and roll gear, for short
46. Actress Merrill
47. Kiln workers
50. Delta material
51. Conception
52. Ambush
53. I preceders
54. Admitting a draft
55. Freshly
56. Ceramic piece
57. Blend
59. Singer Tillis
60. Harem room
61. Nets' gp.



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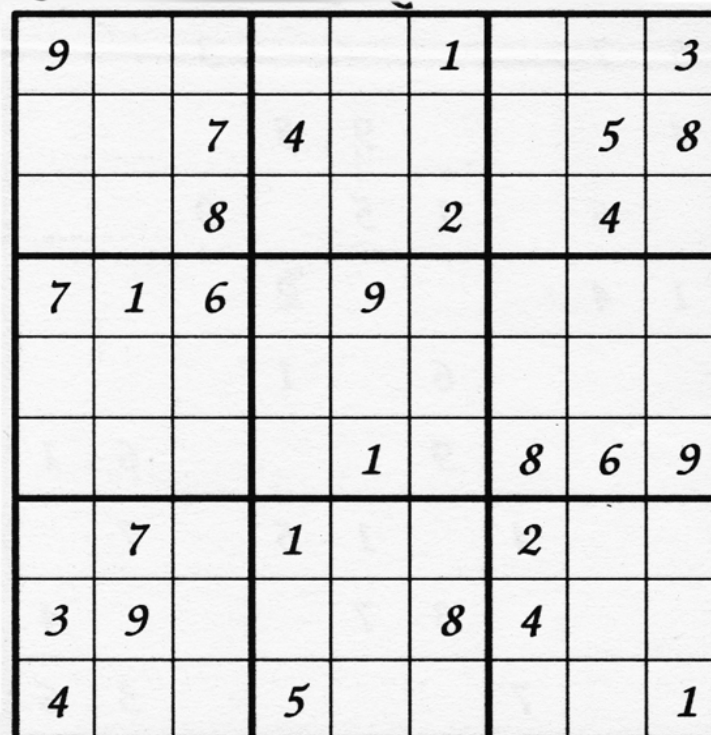
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1	8	5	6	2	3	9	7	4
5	2	7	8	9	1	6	3	4
9	6	2	5	7	1	3	4	8
6	9	8	2	1	7	3	5	4
7	1	3	9	5	6	8	2	4
2	5	7	6	8	9	1	4	3
4	3	1	7	5	6	8	9	2
8	5	6	9	1	2	4	7	3
3	2	9	1	8	7	5	6	4

Complete the grid so that every row and every column contains the numbers 1 through 9. A number is Never repeated in a row or column. In addition every rectangle must contain the numbers 1 through 9.

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White House seeking a replacement for payroll tax cut that ends in January

WASHINGTON (UPI) -- The White House on the weekend denied a report it is looking for an alternative tax break to stimulate the U.S. economy after payroll tax cuts expire in December.

The Washington Post reported the tax break would be designed to provide about the same amount of relief -- \$400 for individuals per year and \$800 for married couples -- that was provided by the policy that lowered the payroll

tax from 6.2 percent to 4.2 percent.

"The report is not correct," White House spokesman Josh Earnest told reporters traveling on Air Force One Saturday. "The administration is not contemplating at this time a tax cut as the way that it's described in the Post."

Earnest said President Barack Obama is committed to middle class tax cuts but he declined to discuss negotiations or whether something other



than what the Post described is in the works.

Economists say payroll tax breaks have immediate effects on the economy, giving increased consumer spending power to those who earn relatively lower wages. In addition the increased take-home pay is ongoing, which prolongs the stimulative effect.

For the long term, President Barack Obama has proposed extending the Bush era tax cuts for households making under \$250,000 per year. Without passage of that proposal, the U.S. budget would go over the so-called fiscal cliff, which has become the popular name for a series of tax hikes and spending cuts that would automatically go into effect Jan. 1 if Congress does not intervene.



U.S. stock exchanges and Wall Street banks yesterday sent employees into Manhattan to stay in hotels and coworkers' homes, as markets prepare to open for business today even as Hurricane Sandy brings public transportation to a halt. The New York Stock Exchange has arranged accommodations for essential staff near its lower-Manhattan headquarters, while other employees have been encouraged to work from home or alternate locations, said a person familiar with the situation.



Daily Exchange Rates

Current as 10/28/2012	Currency Code	Buying rate banknotes	Buying Cheques	Selling Rate
U.S.A.	USD	1.77	1.78	1.80
Dutch Antilles	ANG	98.00	100.00	100.20
Canada	CAD	1.77	1.79	1.81
Britiain	GBP	2.80	2.85	2.91
Switzerland	CHF	189.99	190.71	191.51
Netherlands	EUR	227.82	229.90	232.21
Sweden	SEK	25.52	26.24	27.04
Denmark	DKK	29.86	30.58	31.38
Norway	NOK	29.82	30.54	31.34
Japan	JPY	220.86	222.88	225.12

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FINANCE

VW truck unit MAN stops production for a week

BERLIN (AFP) - MAN, the truck-making arm of German auto giant Volkswagen, said yesterday it was halting production at two sites and sending 15,000 staff home next week as it battles falling profits.

A spokesman confirmed to AFP that two German plants, one in the southern city of Munich and another in the northern town of Salzgitter, would shut their doors and the staff would be forced to take leave from Monday to Friday.

The firm is due to release third-quarter results on Tuesday where more details would be revealed, the spokesman said.

Media reports have speculated on a second halt in pro-

duction from December 24 to January 11.

MAN has seen profits skid amid an uncertain global outlook.

In July, it reported that profits tumbled to 40 million euros (\$52 million) in the first half of the year compared with 854 million euros in the same period last year as revenue dropped by three percent to 7.7 billion euros.

The group's earnings before tax came to 70 million euros in the first six months, compared to 1.2 billion euros in the first half of 2011.

MAN employs approximately 52,500 people worldwide.



A picture taken on October 25, 2012, shows a saffron flower in the land of French saffron grower Jacqueline Mille, in Ennetieres-en-Weppes, near Lille, northern France. She planted some 11,000 bulbs and is expected to collect between 50 to 100 grams of saffron powder, which will cost between 32 to 35 euros (41 to 45 US dollars) per gram. (AFP PHOTO)

SATURDAY'S Crossword Answer

CARP	EYES	ABBOT
OVAl	NARY	GLARE
SEVE	GRIN	RAITT
TREASURE	CHESTS	
	PLO	YET
ACANOF	WORMS	CAT
LIMIT	RAN	LAME
AVEC	STEW	ARIL
MINE	PEA	TBONE
OLD	PANDORA	SBOX
	SIN	RUB
KICKSTHE	BUCKET	
GENRE	RAGE	ANTE
UTTER	IRON	SERE
STOWS	PENS	SEEM

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Madonna booed for urging New Orleans to vote for Obama

(AFP)- Speaking out on political issues has become a tradition at Madonna's live shows this year. During a recent show in New Orleans, the singer earned boos and caused several fans to leave the show when she told them to vote for President Obama.

The pop star, whose 'MDNA' tour has already been marked by several controversial incidents, performed in New Orleans on Saturday. During the show, she asked



concertgoers: "Who's registered to vote?" She then added that she didn't care who they voted for, "as long as you vote for Obama."

The audience immediately reacted to the declaration, with some in the hall booing Madonna and others making for the exit.

"Seriously, I don't care who you vote for... Do not take this privilege for granted. Go vote," she said.

Madonna is famous for openly speaking her mind, no matter the subject. During the Paris show of her MDNA tour, she angered French concertgoers by superimposing a swastika on the forehead of right-wing National Front politician Marine Le Pen.

She then drew condemnation from Russian authorities by expressing support for LGBT rights during her St. Petersburg show, violating the city's newly introduced law against 'homosexual propaganda.'

Madonna completed the scandal trifecta with public nudity: She flashed her breasts in Istanbul and bared her backside in London.

Pop star Glitter arrested in British sex abuse probe

LONDON (AFP) - British police arrested 1970s glam rocker Gary Glitter on Sunday as they probe the mountain of sexual abuse allegations against the late TV star Jimmy Savile that have plunged the BBC into crisis.

Glitter is the first person arrested in an investigation which has snowballed since claims that Savile molested underage girls were aired in a television documentary earlier this month.

Glitter, 68, the king of the glam rock era with a string of stomping hits, has served a jail term in Britain for downloading child pornography and in Vietnam for child sex offenses.

Wearing a hat, dark glasses

and a winter coat, Glitter was seen being escorted from his central London home into a waiting vehicle early Sunday.

The operation has identified around 300 possible victims of Savile over a 40-year period, which would make the eccentric BBC presenter one of the worst offenders in British history.

The claims against Savile have plunged the BBC into crisis and destroyed the reputation of a man who, with his garish tracksuits and ever-present cigar, was one of the most famous faces on British television for decades.

Savile, who died on October 29 last year aged 84, also single-handedly raised tens of millions of pounds (dollars, euros) for charity.



--Natina Reed, a member of the R&B singing trio Blaque, was struck and killed by a car as she walked in a major roadway in Georgia, police said on Saturday. Reed, who also appeared in the cheerleader movie "Bring It On" in 2000, would have turned 33 yesterday. The car's driver called 911 and a passenger performed CPR but Reed was pronounced dead at an area medical center, police said. Authorities ruled the driver was not at fault and no charges were expected to be filed, Long said. Investigators were trying to determine why Reed was in the road, Long said. Reed is survived by their 10-year-old son Tren.

Justin Timberlake sorry for 'silly' wedding video

LOS ANGELES (AFP) - Actor-singer Justin Timberlake apologized for a "distasteful" video produced by a friend as a joke that critics blasted for making fun of homeless people.

The heartthrob actor posted an open letter on his website about the video, in which a string of homeless, transgender and other people wished him best wishes for his wedding to actress Jessica Biel, in southern Italy.

"I had no knowledge of its existence. I had absolutely ZERO contribution to it," he said of the video, whose makers according to the TMZ celebrity news website include his friend Justin Huchel.

"I think we can all agree that it was distasteful, even though that was not its intention," he said.

The video, initially posted on the Gawker website, has a series of Los Angeles vagrants, street musicians and others talk to camera, sending wishes to Timberlake and Biel for their recent Italian nuptials.

"Greetings from your Hollywood friends who just couldn't make it," says a caption at one point, followed by "Love Huch and Rachel."

Timberlake wrote: "I don't live my life making fun of people (unless, of course, I'm making fun of myself on [TV comedy show Saturday Night Live] ... Especially, those who are less fortunate or those in need.

"My friends are good people. This was clearly a lapse in judgment which I'm sure no one who is reading this is exempt from. But, I don't believe it was made to be insensitive.

He added: "On behalf of my friends, family, and associative knuckleheads, I am deeply sorry to anyone who was offended by the video."

Timberlake, 31 -- whose movie credits include 2010's "The Social Network" and 2011's "Friends with Benefits" -- and 30-year-old Biel dated for five years before their wedding this month.

At the end of his open letter, Timberlake said: "Thank you for giving me the opportunity to share my thoughts. It really is a blessing to be able to speak directly to my true fans."

He concluding by vowing to get his friend to "do at least 100 hours of community service."

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Healthy, tasty treats on the menu at Lecca Lecca



Favorites and unique flavors like grapefruit and lemon mint

No foray to Oranjestad is complete without a stop to refresh and refuel at Lecca Lecca, the stylish "Gelato Shoppe" located right in the main bus terminal. This adorable eatery sports a menu that reflects the passion of its owner, Milly Lacle, for "healthy, natural foods, for a healthy body."

The idea of a sweet treat being good for you is contrary to everything we are being told today, but Milly did her homework before establishing her gelato and sorbetto factory on the second floor. Her recipes come from a respected gelato house in Italy, where they have been producing the refreshing, low or no fat product since the 1800's. She continues the tradition of using only fresh fruit juices and natural extracts to as flavoring.

There are absolutely no artificial colorants or preservatives in the gelato and sorbetto, which is produced fresh daily; leftovers at the end of the day are donated to children's homes Casa Cuna or Imeldahoff.

They have over 60 flavors on their roster with 18 available at the shop each day, including at least one sugar-free and one-gluten free for those with special dietary needs. All the gelato is made from organic milk flown in from Italy, guaranteed free of steroids and antibiotics. Lecca Lecca

pasteurizes the milk in their factory, to be sure there are no chemicals used in the process. The end product is whipped light and fluffy naturally, producing a satisfying treat drastically lower in fat, sugar and calories than traditional ice cream.

Unique flavors found nowhere else are a revelation. For a delightful surprise and pure refreshment, sample the grapefruit, passion fruit or carrot sorbetto; the rich, dark, sugar-free chocolate gelato is absolutely sinful, without the guilty conscience! They also have a unique collection of yogurt gelatos swirled with fresh fruit sorbetto in delightful combinations.

Lecca Lecca offers an attractive lunch menu including



Fresh vegetable quiche

quiche made with only fresh vegetables, and sandwiches on crusty bread they prepare in their own bakery. Indulge in the soup of the day for a hearty sampling of authentic Aruban cooking.

Opened Monday through Saturday from 9:30 AM until 7:00 PM; it is a must do while in Oranjestad for a refreshing treat, with the emphasis on FRESH!



Tutti frutti a blend of fresh exotic fruits

Gold Coast Aruba: This is the time to invest



Management of Gold Coast Aruba, the island's newest and most innovative gated community, reports that sales have been very good and encouraging as the global economy recovers and people looking to purchase vacation homes have found that Gold Coast is an outstanding investment value. Director of Sales, Fito Croes has noticed a surprising percentage of owners in reality do not spend a great amount of time personally to use the villas or town homes they purchase, but are taking advantage of Gold Coast's rental services to turn their investment into ready income.

"The greater portion of home owners are using their "home away from home" in Aruba to escape the winter months, or spend holidays with the family on the island," he remarked, "but I am gratified by how many are buying because they felt secure with

real estate investment on Aruba. They really study the history and economy of the island and are impressed with the political stability and continually increasing value of prime locations. Gold Coast is in the heart of Malmok, considered Aruba's most exclusive community where the value of properties has only increased over time. It is only minutes to the best beaches and all the action, and yet offers a quiet and secluded getaway; we are very pleased by the response to our concept."

Fito, with his sister Mayrin and brother Rudy operate Cas Bon, which has been constructing homes and building developments for all budgets for nearly twenty years. "Gold Coast Aruba is the jewel in our crown," observes Fito. "We were very excited about this project and the scope of actual and planned facilities and amenities. We have spoken to

countless island visitors to find out what they would really want in a permanent residence on Aruba, and took from there."

Input from frequent vacationers who have dreamed of their own home in Aruba contributed to the realization of Gold Coast Aruba which when complete will be a community of 260 town homes, villas and condominiums with a stunning clubhouse complemented by two additional community pool areas. The Clubhouse is about to start construction and

appreciation on their investment, particularly those taking advantage of the on site management's rental services program. There is always a great demand for Aruba and facilities such as those at Gold Coast, make it easy for some owners to see a valuable return on their investment.

The design of the residences and public areas is open, airy and spacious, taking full advantage of the island environment, with quality construction and finishing available. Partnering with two

purchasing property; not the least is the future value of the investment. To further enhance this, Gold Coast management have inaugurated a number of in-house services and have recently become affiliated Interval International, the world's largest network of vacation ownership properties which provides an unlimited international pool of investors to tap for ownership and rental prospects. Property exchange for a vacation in another destination is also available through the Interval International affiliation. Gold Coast's own rental services have also proven highly successful in assisting owners in renting their villas; 24-hour security and maintenance services also tip the scales when it is time to make a decision. Aside from all this, housekeeping, child care, catering services, car rental through its partnership with AVIS car rental are also available as well as pre-shopping services so cupboards and refrigerators are stocked upon arrival, which can also be arranged through their property management department. Personnel are also available to assist in arranging restaurant reservations and island activities.

Visit their website: www.goldcoastaruba.com for more details and availability or call 586-2200 to arrange a personal tour.



will offer to the community homeowners and visitors 2 tennis courts, full service spa and fitness center as well as a stunning pool area and is expected to be complete by early 2013. It will also house a restaurant and mini-market.

Owners who purchased upon the groundbreaking only a few short years ago, are already enjoying a nearly 50%

of Aruba's top providers of kitchens and bathrooms enables developers to offer custom options allowing buyers to individualize their homes. An elegant and chic furniture package is available or island designers will assist owners in finishing the décor to their specific tastes.

There are many aspects to



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SPORTS

Football: BUNDESLIGA

BERLIN (AFP) - Bayer Leverkusen claimed a shock 2-1 win at Bayern Munich yesterday to claim their first win at the Bavarians for 23 years as the Bundesliga leaders' record winning streak came to an abrupt end.

Having set a German league record last weekend with their eighth straight win since the start of the season, Bayern were left stunned as defender Jerome Boateng scored a late own goal to give Leverkusen the three points.

Despite the defeat, Bayern still enjoy a four-point lead at the top of the table, while Leverkusen are fifth.

There was also drama in Hanover as Borussia

Moenchengladbach came from 2-0 down to score three goals in nine minutes to enjoy a 3-2 win and claim only their third league victory of the season to go ninth with Hanover tenth.

Earlier, VfB Stuttgart striker Vedad Ibisevic headed a late winner to seal his team's 2-1 home victory over Eintracht Frankfurt.

Ex-Germany midfielder Christian Gentner played a big part in Stuttgart's win, which lifts them up to eighth, after he scored the opener in the sixth minute, then provided the final cross for Ibisevic's 84th-minute header.

On Saturday, defending champions Borussia Dortmund

and Schalke had to dig deep as they returned to domestic action still in the glow of their midweek Champions League triumphs.

After Borussia shocked Real Madrid 2-1 in Dortmund on Wednesday, the same night Schalke enjoyed a 2-0 win at Arsenal, the pair both needed second-half goals to win their respective Bundesliga games.

Dortmund beat Freiburg 2-0 in heavy snow.

VfL Wolfsburg, who parted company with coach Felix Magath on Thursday, picked up only their second win of the season with a 4-1 victory at 10-man Fortuna Duesseldorf to lift themselves off the bottom and up into 16th in the table.

Mainz are up to sixth after Hungary striker Adam Szalai scored a hat-trick against Hoffenheim. Having opened his account in the 21st minute, he doubled his team's tally with a second on 46 and wrapped up his hat-trick with a 64th-minute header to seal the 3-0 victory.

Football: Vidal guides Juve to controversial Catania win

MILAN (AFP) - An Irish bookmaker will pay out to punters who backed a Catania win despite the Serie A side's controversial 1-0 defeat to champions Juventus.

Arturo Vidal's 57th-minute winner in Sicily helped Juve extend their lead at the top of Serie A and took their unbeaten run to 48 matches.

However, the Turin giants' eighth win in nine games came amid huge controversy.

In the first half Argentine striker Ruben Bergessio had tapped a rebound from Nicolas Spolli's glancing header past Gianluigi Buffon in the Juve goal to send the Sicilian fans wild.

Buffon, celebrating his 500th Serie A appearance, looked to have been fairly beaten but Catania's celebrations were cut short when the referee disallowed the opener after consulting with his assistant who said Bergessio was offside.

Catania reacted furiously and, after club president An-

tonino Pulvirenti was sent from the bench for dissent, five of the club's players picked up yellow cards as their frustration came to the fore.

Despite Catania's defeat, bookmaker Paddy Power announced on its website it had paid out to punters who backed a Catania victory.

It activated the "Justice Payout" system in Italy for the first time, and explained in a statement: "Sometimes the result is so unfair that it's simply a fair reimbursement."

In comments to Sky Italia, Catania president Pulvirenti had complained: "Bergessio's goal was cancelled by the Juve bench. There were seven officials out there, and none of them saw a thing."

Juventus president Beppe Moratta brushed off claims which seemed to suggest foul play on the part of the officials.

"These accusations don't even deserve a response," he said. "The referee was wrong but we would have won on points."



KIEV (AFP) - Ukraine's world boxing champion Vitali Klitschko has an unrivalled record of knocking out opponents in the ring but Sunday faced the biggest challenge of his life as he leads his party in tightly contested parliamentary elections. Klitschko's aptly-named UDAR (Punch) party is hoping the elections will make it a nationwide political force for the first time and even the main challenger to the ruling Regions Party of President Viktor Yanukovich. Some polls have shown UDAR coming second in the election ahead of the main opposition force of supporters of jailed opposition leader Yulia Tymoshenko, which would be a remarkable achievement for a man who only fought his last title defence in September. Klitschko's populist-tinged political message plays on the desire of most Ukrainians to live lives comparable to their counterparts in the European Union. He founded the UDAR party in 2010 and the legislative elections represent its big chance to raise its status from a force in Kiev to a big national player.

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NBA prepares to open its 67th season



"I want to be the best of all-time. It's that simple." -- Heat star LeBron James

WASHINGTON (AFP) - LeBron James had yet to claim an NBA championship when he arrived in Miami two years

ago, boldly predicting multiple title runs with Heat teammates Chris Bosh and Dwyane Wade.

Now, as the NBA prepares to open its 67th season tomorrow, "King" James is coming off a crowning achievement, having won his first NBA title with the Heat last June and then guiding the US Olympic team to London gold in August.

Now the Heat look to repeat and James, whose spectacular high-leaping skills have made him the NBA's most dynamic playmaker since Michael Jordan won six titles with Chicago in the 1990s, vows to back up his boasts and prove he is no one-hit wonder.

"I've accomplished a lot of goals but I'm still not satisfied with what I've done so far," James said. "We can be better than we were this past season. We have the potential to be a lot better. That is scary."

The Heat have added 37-year-old guard Ray Allen, the all-time NBA leader in 3-point shots who must face his former Boston teammates when they visit for Tuesday's opener, and veteran forward Rashard Lewis to a championship roster.

James matched Jordan as the only players in history to win an NBA title, Olympic gold and be named the NBA regular-season and NBA Fi-

nals Most Valuable Player (MVP) in the same year.

Meanwhile across the continent, Kobe Bryant will try to match Jordan's career title total with a revamped Los Angeles Lakers' lineup that includes new big man Dwight Howard and star guard Steve Nash, both seeking their first NBA crowns.

"Dwight's defensive presence is probably the greatest I've seen in the history of the sport," Bryant said. "Steve's a great playmaker. Steve's IQ and ability to quarterback, it's not something I can naturally do."

Bryant, 34, has played 1,161 regular-season games and 42,377 minutes and has two years worth \$58.3 million remaining on what could be his final NBA deal. Having Howard and Nash as teammates figures to give him better shooting chances and, the Lakers hope, another title opportunity.

The Lakers and Heat must still contend with the Oklahoma City Thunder, powered by three-time NBA scoring champion Kevin Durant and star guard Russell Westbrook, although they'll be without last season's NBA Sixth Man of the Year James Harden.

Harden was traded on the eve of the season to Houston, where he'll join a team hoping Taiwanese-American star Jeremy Lin can continue to work the magic he showed last year with the Knicks.

Durant and Westbrook played for the US Olympic gold medal squad, which beat teammate Serge Ibaka's Spanish squad in the London final.

While the Thunder's young stars are the NBA's wave of the future, San Antonio remains in the title hunt with veterans Tim Duncan, France's Tony Parker and Argentina's Manu Ginobili while the Los Angeles Clippers are on the rise with All-Stars Blake Griffin and Chris Paul



James Harden (r) traded to the Houston Rockets

and veterans Chauncey Billups and Lamar Odom.

The Celtics remain a power in the East with Kevin Garnett and Paul Pierce and guard Rajon Rondo while the Chicago Bulls could still threaten despite Derrick Rose still sidelined by a left knee injury suffered in last season's playoff opener.

New York boasts Carmelo Anthony, Amare Stoudemire and Tyson Chandler but the Knicks will have some new cross-town competition in the Brooklyn Nets, who move from New Jersey into a new \$1 billion arena and have some firepower of their own in Deron Williams and Joe Johnson.

The upcoming campaign will be the final full season for NBA commissioner David Stern, who last Thursday announced he will leave the job on February 1, 2014, 30 years to the day after taking over the league in 1984.

During his last campaign, Stern wants to see a reduction in amateur dramatics on the court, with the league announcing a crackdown on "floppers" who intentionally fall to trick referees into calling fouls.

A first violation brings a warning but a second brings a \$5,000 fine and the fines grow up to \$30,000 for a fifth violation with possible suspensions after that.

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Football: Argentina's derby of derbies ends all-square



BUENOS AIRES (AFP) - Argentina's Superclasico derby of derbies between bitter rivals Boca Juniors and River Plate ended all square in a 2-2 draw on Sunday.

Leonardo Ponzio's early freekick, which left keeper Agustin Orion groping at thin air, put River, promoted last

Aguirre after they suffered knee injuries in the opening period as 50,000 ferociously partisan fans looked on.

Leandro Gonzalez Pirez replaced Mori after just four minutes while Ariel Rojas came on for Aguirre just nine minutes later, disrupting River's solid start.



Boca Juniors shocked River Plate at the Monumental with a two-goal comeback, capped off by a stoppage time goal netted by Walter Erviti.

season a year after their first ever relegation stunned fans across the nation, into an opening minute lead.

And things looked even better for Matias Almeyda's men when Uruguayan Rodrigo Mora made it 2-0 midway through the second half at River's Monumental Stadium after former France star David Trezeguet linked-up with Carlos Sanchez.

But another Uruguayan, Santiago Silva, reduced the arrears with a 75th-minute penalty following German Pezzella's foul on Santiago Silva before Walter Erviti rescued a point in the first minute of stoppage time.

The point left Boca in fifth place, three points ahead of their Buenos Aires rivals.

River had to reshuffle the pack with Almeyda having to take off defender Ramiro Funes Mori and Martin

Although Boca will be the happier with the draw, in what was the first meeting of the pair in 17 months, a title challenge has not materialised so far this season as they trail leaders Newell's Old Boys by seven points after 12 games.

The Buenos Aires derby encounter has been described as the world's most intense sporting experience, pitting together two teams of more than a century's standing.

Both clubs were formed in a gritty part of Buenos Aires where Boca remain while River moved in the 1920s to a more upmarket area.

Games are traditionally passionate but tragedy struck the fixture after a dour 0-0 draw in 1968, when 90,000 people poured into the Monumental and 71 fans were crushed to death in the worst tragedy to hit Argentinian football.

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Team Sky director Yates abruptly quits the sport

LONDON (AFP) - Sean Yates abruptly quit cycling after 30 years of involvement both as rider and latterly as a team director when Team Sky announced he was retiring on Sunday. The 52-year-old Englishman - who as a rider won stages on the Tour de France and the Tour of Spain - leaves after a three year sojourn and which saw the team enjoy a stunning season with the highlight Bradley Wiggins winning the Tour de France. Yates had been one of the rare members of the cycling fraternity to defend disgraced American Lance Armstrong. Yates said that in the time he worked with Armstrong at the Discovery Team (2005-09) he never saw him do anything illegal. Team Sky, though, were at pains to say that Yates's sudden departure had nothing to do with their position on anti-doping, wherein the management team started a series of individual interviews with riders, management and support staff.